

Obtaining a DUNS Number & Registering in SAM.gov A Guide for Alaska Federal Grant Applicants

All entities applying for federally funded awards, including the AK-ARPA Business Relief Program, are required to have a valid unique identifier. Historically, the unique identifier used has been a DUNS Number, but that will be changing to the Unique Entity ID issued by SAM.gov in early April. The U.S. federal government will no longer require organizations to obtain a DUNS Number in order to register in SAM.gov beginning on April 4, 2022. Entities that are new to federal funding may register in SAM.gov directly to obtain a unique identifier.

For more information, visit <https://www.gsa.gov/about-us/organization/federal-acquisition-service/office-of-systems-management/integrated-award-environment-iae/iae-systems-information-kit/unique-entity-identifier-update>.

Definitions:

- A **Data Universal Number System (DUNS) Number** is a unique nine-digit identification number issued by Dun & Bradstreet (D&B). It is the *old* identifier that has been used by entities for many years when applying for federal funding. A DUNS number is site-specific, so each distinct physical location of an entity may be assigned a DUNS number.
- A **Unique Entity ID** is issued by SAM.gov. It is the *new* identifier that will be used by entities for federal awards processes from April 4, 2022 forward.

Obtaining a DUNS number and registering with SAM.gov are **free** for all entities doing business with the State of Alaska or the Federal government.

- *For entities that already have a DUNS Number:* Use that number on your application for the AK-ARPA Business Relief Program.
- *For entities that are not sure if they have a DUNS number:* Go to fedgov.dnb.com/webform or call the D&B toll-free number (1-866-705-5711) to check your DUNS Number status.
- *For entities that do not have a DUNS number:*
 - **Before March 29, 2022 (@ 5pm ET):** Go to fedgov.dnb.com/webform to begin your online application. Indicate that you are a federal grant applicant/prospective applicant. In most cases, DUNS numbers are issued within hours of completion. March 29 is the last day to obtain a new DUNS Number from Dun & Bradstreet for registering an entity.
 - **After April 4, 2022:** Go to SAM.gov to register and obtain your Unique Entity ID. This will be used from now on in place of DUNS Numbers, which will no longer be relevant.
 - **Between March 29 and April 4, 2022:** SAM.gov will be down for maintenance to complete this transition beginning on April 1 at 8:00 PM (ET) until no later than 9:00 AM (ET) April 4.
 - For more information, visit [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) and <https://interact.gsa.gov/node/467958>.